

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY CALLS ON HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTOR TO ENSURE SECURITY OF LIQUID NATURAL GAS

*Lawmaker to ask Homeland Security
Director Tom Ridge to clarify authority over LNG Security*

Washington, DC: Rep. Markey sent a letter today to Homeland Security Director, Tom Ridge asking that the director untangle the web of responsibility among federal, state, and local agencies who have jurisdiction over LNG shipments. The Coast Guard oversees the LNG tankers when they come through Boston Harbor directly into a Distrigas holding facility in Everett, MA, a city in Markey's district. Rep. Markey is concerned that during the periods where no LNG tankers are in port, the federal responsibility to secure the LNG facilities on land is undetermined.

"The high level of national, state and local protection provided by the Unified Command under the Coast Guard for the occasional arrival of LNG tankers appears to collapse once the tanker departs, leaving only the local police and fire departments to cope with essentially the same risk of terrorist attack and fire," Markey said.

"Most of the attention has been focused on attacks of the LNG tankers with the usual scenario involving the rupture of a single tank," Markey continued. "Comparatively little consideration seems to be given the protection of the onshore tanks, which are larger (25 million gallons compared to a single tanker tank of 7 million gallons). If the Coast Guard is concerned about protecting 7 million gallons in a tanker if it loses its assistance from 100 reservists, you can imagine how concerned the Everett Police and Fire Departments have become about their ongoing responsibilities for 25 million gallons sitting in tanks without reserve support."

"LNG provides for nearly 20 percent of New England's energy during the winter months and is an important part of the local economy," Markey said, "However, safety and security are just as vital and cannot be compromised because of a lack of clear responsibility for these LNG facilities throughout the year."

The complete correspondence between Rep. Markey and Director Ridge can be found at
<http://www.house.gov/markey/>. See "Latest News."

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